Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305) Food & Drug Administration 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061 Rockville, MD 20852

1177 '99 AUG -9 A9 243

RE: 98N-1230 96P-0418 97P-0197

I would like to stay at the top of the food chain but I find it increasingly hard to have faith that your agency – created to protect and serve the public and ensure edible sources of food – will help me do so.

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. The FDA in fact has the jurisdiction to ban farming practices that injure human health – and it does not make sense to me that this petition has not already been granted. Please do so immediately.

I have read about modern chicken farming practices. The US Dept. of Agriculture Food Safety & Inspection Service recognizes that this practice increases the shedding of Salmonella enteritidis. Forced molting is barbaric and cruel — and forces farmers to pump these stressed and starving birds full of god knows what because their immune systems are shot. Forced molting is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs and ultimately consumers of eggs (i.e. me!) — and even one more human death from consumption of contaminated eggs is too much.

The FDA really must ban the forced molting of laying hens. And furthermore, must to much more than just put Bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulate egg refrigeration temperatures – for the public safety.

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**CROSS FILE SHEET** 

File Number: 98N-1230/ C & 4

• See File Number: 97P-0197/ **C\$5** 

96P 0418/ CFY